

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting
August 5, 2009
Little America Conference Center
Cheyenne, Wyoming

State Board members present: Pam Anderson, Bill Anthony, Sandy Barton, Mike Hejtmanek, Jim McBride, Larry McGarvin, Norine Kasperik, Phil Orton, Joe Reichardt, Jan Torres

State Board Members Absent: Dana Mann-Tavegia, Matt Garland

Also present: Mary Kay Hill, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE); Joe Simpson, WDE; Shelly Lovato, WDE; Jennifer Duncan, WDE; John Shumway, Attorney General's Office (AG); Kay Post, WDE; Tom Collins, WDE; Fred Hansen, WDE; Cassandra Celaya, WDE

Members of the Press and Public Present: Kathy Scheurmann, Wyoming Education Association (WDE); Ron Vigil, Teacher, Laramie County School District #1; Dan Stephan, Wyoming Association of School Administrators; Joan Barron, Casper Star Tribune; Amy Edmunds, Wyoming Association of Public Charter Schools

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Anthony called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Jennifer Duncan conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Anthony presented the minutes of the June 18, 2009 meeting held in Casper, Wyoming.

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2009 MEETING BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN

MIKE HEJTMANEK SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jan Torres reported that the Board has a balance of \$152,658.57. Her only question on the report was the charge for \$623.75. Mary Kay Hill confirmed that was an order for books requested for the Board regarding assessment.

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN

JIM MCBRIDE SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD UPDATES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Reichardt reported that he, Mike Hejtmanek and Phil Orton attended the New Member Board Orientation with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). All three found it very informative and realized how lucky we are in Wyoming compared to the issues that other states face. Norine Kasperik looks forward to attending next year.

Sandy Barton reported on the Job Corps project in Riverton. The House has approved the center, the Senate should approve and construction should begin by spring 2010.

Jan Torres reported on the At-Risk Task force. They have come up with their final recommendations for the WDE to follow through on and will be presenting those next week.

Pam Anderson reported that she attended her first meeting with the Task Force on Assessment. She is looking forward to serving with this group.

Superintendent McBride reported on the most recent Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) meeting. Many other states have such larger issues than we do and many of the other Chiefs were very worried about their situation.

He addressed the release of the PAWS scores and AYP results for schools. The results were not as good as he had hoped. The WDE will be able to provide more technical assistance to the schools. He noted that the WDE will provide this assistance and keep to the strategic plan that the WDE has been following and continually updating to keep current with the situation.

SANDY BARTON MOVED THAT THE MOVED ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AND CONVENE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM THE BOARD ATTORNEY REGARDING CHARTER SCHOOL WAIVERS.

JAN TORRES SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board adjourned into executive session until 1:50 p.m., at which time the regular meeting reconvened.

MIKE HEJTMANEK MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING.

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

JIM MCBRIDE MOVED THAT ITEMS 5 AND 6 BE SWITCHED ON THE AGENDA

NORINE KASPERIK SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER APPROVAL

Fred Hansen, WDE presented Canyon Hills Center in Spearfish, South Dakota for approval as an out of state educational service provider. They specialize in psychiatric disorders and will provide another place for treatment of children as Wyoming Behavioral Institute is the only other provider of the same type of services.

Fred visited the site and was pleased with the situation there.

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT CANYON HILLS CENTER BE APPROVED AS A COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHARTER SCHOOL WAIVERS

Tania Hytrek, WDE, presented the issue of charter school waivers on behalf of Samantha Mills of the WDE. Two request packets for waivers have been received by the WDE from Fremont County School Districts #38 and #21.

Fremont #38 has requested a waiver of two statutes, WS 21-3-102 and 21-3-304(m) in order to operate a 9-12 charter school in their district.

The Board has authority on some of these waivers but not all of them.

MIKE HEJTMANEK MOVED THAT THE STATE BOARD WAIVER W.S. 21-3-102 AS REQUESTED BY FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #38 THUS ALLOWING THE OPERATION OF A CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT

JOE REICHARDT SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MIKE HEJTMANEK MOVED THAT THE STATE BOARD WAIVER W.S. 21-3-304(M) AS REQUESTED BY FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #38 THUS ALLOWING THE OPERATION OF A CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT AND ASKS THAT THE BOARD VOTES NO

NORINE KASPERIK SECONDED THE MOTION

Sandy Barton explained that Fremont County School District #38 does not require this waiver in order to operate and that is why the Board has requested to vote no on it.

MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY

Fremont #21 requested 3 waivers of statutes WS21-3-102, 21-2-102 and 21-3-304 (m); allowing the operation of a charter high school in the district, allowing a distance education program in the district, and allowing the school to hire teachers on a year by year basis with no expectation of acquiring continuing contract status.

MIKE HEJTMANEK MOVED THAT THE STATE BOARD WAIVE W.S. 21-3-102 AS REQUESTED BY FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #21 THUS ALLOWING THE OPERATION OF A CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT

JOE REICHARDT SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MIKE HEJTMANEK MOVED THAT THE STATE BOARD WAIVER W.S. 21-3-304(M) AS REQUESTED BY FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #21 THUS ALLOWING THE OPERATION OF A DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND I ASKED THAT THE BOARD VOTE NO

NORINE KASPERIK SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY

MIKE HEJTMANKE MOVED THAT THE STATE BOARD WAIVE W.S. 21-7-102 AS REQUESTED BY FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #21 THUS ALLOWING THE CHARTER SCHOOL TO HIRE TEACHERS ON A YEAR TO YEAR BASIS WITH NO EXPECTATION OF ACQUIRING CONTINUING CONTRACT STATUS AND ASKED THAT THE BOARD VOTE NO

NORINE KASPERIK SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY

Mary Kay Hill added that what the Board has done today allows the charter high schools to continue operating in the same fashion they have operated in up to this point. The motions that were denied were items not under the purview of the State Board of Education.

STATUS OF WYOMING STANDARDS REVISION PROJECT/COMMON CORE STANDARDS INITIATIVE RELATIVE TO WYOMING STANDARDS

Tom Collins and Cassandra Celeya, WDE, updated the Board on the status of the update on the standards revision process and the common core standards initiative relative to Wyoming standards. He reviewed the three phases of the review process and itemized their timelines. Standards will be reviewed in the following order:

Fine & Performing Arts, Foreign Language and Health - 9/2009 - 3/2011
Language Arts, Mathematics and Physical Education - 5/2010 - 1/2012
Career/Vocational Education, Science and Social Studies - 2/2012 - 10/2013

He went on to tie this review into the upcoming Common Core State Standards being proposed by CCSSO and the National Governor's Association. This is a voluntary effort for states who wish to participate. They hope to reduce the number of standards and standardize them on a national level.

This timeline will conclude in early 2010 for state submittal of English-language arts and mathematics proposed standards.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS

Cassandra Celaya, WDE, discussed the change in the English Language Learner Assessment (WELLA). The current contractor Pearson has examined all possible cutbacks in our assessment contract to accommodate the WDE's need to cut back 10% per the updated budget requests for state agencies. It was decided that the WELLS exam would be much more expensive alternative to other products that Pearson offers. The WDE will be developing and implementing a plan to join a

consortium for administering the assessment which should reduce costs significantly but still provide a high quality, valid and reliable assessment.

STATE BUDGET OUTLOOK

Mary Kay Hill talked to the Board regarding the required state agency budget cuts, particularly in travel and especially out of state travel. The face to face meetings may need to be reduced and replaced by meetings via the Wyoming Equality Network (WEN). When the final budget is received by the WDE further information regarding changes in the Board budget will be forwarded to the Board.

SET ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board set their meeting schedule for the following year.

SANDY BARTON MOVED THAT THE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR BE AS FOLLOWS: NOVEMBER 18-19, 2009 IN CASPER, FEBRUARY 25-26, 2010 IN CHEYENNE, SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-16, 2010 IN THE HOMETOWN OF THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND JUNE 15, 2009 IN RIVERTON.

PAM ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Anthony adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.